

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under (A) 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being enabled by the specification, (B) 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and (C) 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements.

In section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The portion of the claims pointed out by the Examiner, i.e., “wherein the guidance notice information generating unit ... to the first line section,” is supported by a process shown in Figs. 25 and 26 provided by the notice part detecting unit 108 shown in Fig. 1, described in page 32, line 28 to page 33, line 12, and page 33, line 14 to page 34, line 10.

The support for this portion of the claim will be described more specifically below by the example shown in Figs. 26A to 26C. For each of $(N + 1)$ th to $(N + 3)$ th links, detected as the notice part, following the Nth link, a shape deviation δ is detected in the step S50601. The guidance notice information generating unit generates the guidance notice information on the basis of increase and decrease trends in an angle made between a first line section of the link in the road map data and a second line section of the guiding route in the shape-simplified road map data, corresponding to the first line section in step S50602 and S50603 - S50605 as shown in Figs. 26A to 26C.

Nevertheless, Applicant has improved the language used in the claims by using a link rather than coordinates (values) similarly to the definition in the shape-simplified road map data generating unit. Support for the amendments is present in at least the above-mentioned portions of the application.

Applicant submits that the amended claims are described in a way that enables one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In section 3 of the Office action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended by replacing “the recommended route” with “the guiding route” to remain consistent throughout the claims. The “recommended route” becomes the “guiding route” after the “recommended route” is approved by the operator (driver). Thus, “the recommended route” is replaced with “the guiding route.” In addition, claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended, because “an end” is recited twice. The second occurrence of “an end” has been replaced with “the end” since these ends are the same.

Applicant submits that the amended claims are definite, and thus this rejection should be withdrawn.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as omitting essential structural relationships. Regarding “another line connected to an end,” this phrase is replaced with “a road” in the present amendments. In addition, the feature in the claims of “wherein the guidance notice information generating unit ... to the first line section,” which was cited in section 1 of the Office Action, has been amended as shown above. The amended claims have all of the necessary structural relationships. Therefore, the rejection described in section 4 of the Office Action should be withdrawn.

In addition, the claims are amended to more clearly define the shape-simplified road map data generating unit and the shape-simplified road map data generating unit step. These

amendments are supported by Figs. 15 to 19 and the description from page 18, line 23 to page 27, line 9 of this application.

Claims 3 and 6 are amended for consistency with the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 4 is canceled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims are on condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 029118.58161US.

Respectfully submitted,

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